

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. A great deal of construction was observed in Moscow, Stalingrad, and Leningrad. In Moscow, a large number of sports fields were being laid out, especially in the direction of the Lenin Hills. For the most part, this construction was devoted to dwellings, for example, along the Kotelnicheskaya Naberezhnaya. Winches and self-raising cranes were in use on all these projects. Extensive use was made of trucks to transport material to the construction sites. The building activity created a messy impression; scaffoldings would not be considered safe by European standards. Both men and women worked on these projects.
2. Much was being done to improve street pavements. A great number of streets were being asphalted; this work was largely done by women with the aid of asphaltting machines.
3. The condition of the houses was all fairly good. However, on the outskirts of Moscow and in the country, there were many hovels, which had a very neglected appearance, although inhabited. Some of these hovels had television antennae.
4. Street lighting in the cities visited was very good and on a par with West European cities. Lighting in the country was poor. No flickering or failure of lighting was observed. In Moscow, the lights seemed dimmed after midnight, particularly around Red Square.
5. Soviet officials were well-dressed and looked well-fed in contrast to the people in the streets.
6. Uniformed personnel predominated in the streets and included both police and military officers and enlisted men. The police were dressed in white tunics, blue breeches, and jackboots. Military uniforms were mostly olive drab in color. Enlisted men did not wear shoulder boards, in contrast to the officers. Soldiers wore field caps, which generally had visors.

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